

SECRET

17 August 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: General Counsel
VIA : Deputy Director for Plans
SUBJECT : Preds Launags

1. Subject is a 48-year-old Latvian emigre who was hired as a contract agent for operations against the Baltic States in 1950. He was initially employed in Germany, but in 1952 he moved legally to the United States on his own initiative and has now acquired U.S. citizenship. In 1955 he began to show signs of mental instability when he imagined that he was being followed by unknown persons in Washington, D.C. For similar reasons he had to be returned from a prolonged TDY in Spain in 1957. Finally, he had to be brought back from a PCS assignment in Germany in the end of 1959 because of unstable and irrational behavior. He then received psychiatric examinations and treatments at Agency expense. For these reasons, and because the operational activities in which he had been engaged were diminishing, he was terminated under amicable conditions. Termination and resettlement were handled by the Domestic Contact Service (DCS) which provided vocational training, a job in the Lancaster, Pennsylvania area as well as assistance in resettlement there, and arrangements for future contact.

2. Since his resettlement in Lancaster, Subject has shown increasing signs of schizophrenia and is now considered incurable by CIA doctors who believe, however, that he will not become violent. Despite the efforts of CIA and many of his friends to assist him financially and to help him find suitable employment, he has not been able to hold a job for more than a few weeks and has turned most of his former friends against him by his irrational behavior. His behavior also led to a divorce obtained by his wife (a successful dentist in Lancaster) who gained custody of their two children.

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE: METHODS EXEMPT / ON 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

3. At the end of 1964 Subject told a friend who is a CIA contract employee that he was planning to return to his native Latvia. As a result, SB Division actively reentered the case. At first we attempted to monitor and control Subject's activities indirectly through his former friend who is still employed by the Agency on contract. We also furnished Subject modest amounts of money which ostensibly were hand-outs given him by his friend. His instability became more pronounced, however, and we again called on DCS to establish direct Agency contact with him. In August 1966 DCS was provided \$3,000 of SB funds to be doled out to Subject for his personal needs when and as required. These funds have been expended in the course of the past year.

4. In the course of the past few years Subject wrote a number of letters to various high-ranking U.S. Government officials, including the President of the U.S. In one of the letters he threatened the President if he failed to take certain actions to liberate Latvia. On one occasion Subject also displayed violence, when he stayed overnight at a Latvian emigre camp and tried to choke a man who (he believed) had occupied a bunk which Subject thought was his. In order to avoid publicity the Latvian did not call the police. As a result of these acts we notified the Secret Service and other appropriate agencies at the end of 1965 that we considered Subject a possible threat to the President. The Secret Service interviewed Subject shortly thereafter and found him to be rational at that time. Since then we have kept the Service and the other appropriate agencies advised of any outstanding incidents concerning Subject.

5. During the past several years Subject has several times visited the Soviet Mission to the United Nations. At first he submitted to them various written proposals concerning Latvia. But since 1966 his visits were for the purpose of obtaining a visitor's visa for a trip to Latvia, in order to observe conditions there and write about them for the emigre press in the West. As far as we know, Subject has had three meetings with a Soviet official (of Latvian origin) at the UN for this purpose. The FBI has confirmed two of these contacts. The result of these visits was that on 28 June 1967 Riga Radio broadcast a story about Subject. The story was published in much greater detail on 1 July 1967 in Cina, the official organ of the Latvian SSR, under the heading "Why a Visa Was Not Issued to Him."

SECRET

SECRET

-3-

A similar article appeared in another internal Latvian newspaper. Since then the anti-Communist Latvian emigre press has replayed the substance of the article. Finally, the same story that appeared in Cina was carried in Dzimtenes Balss, the organ of the Latvian Committee for Maintaining Cultural Relations with Fellow-Countrymen Abroad, a publication for external consumption only. In addition to providing a large amount of accurate biographic data on Subject, these Soviet releases accused him of being a Nazi war criminal and a CIA agent who had been involved in the dispatch of other Latvian CIA agents to Latvia. The details surfaced in this connection have in essence all appeared before in previous Soviet releases since the late 1950's. Although the current Soviet releases relate Subject's visits to the UN and his requests for a visa, the stories provide no indication whether Subject personally told the Soviet official about his previous CIA service. This possibility cannot, however, be discounted.

6. If he discussed his CIA activities with the Soviets, or if he should disclose them in the future, he could provide no current operational information. The only historical item he could provide which still retains some degree of sensitivity is that CIA was behind the black broadcasts to Latvia which were made by the Spanish Government Radio from 1957-1961.

7. To our knowledge the Soviet releases have not been picked up by the Western press, except for Baltic emigre publications. However, the possibility cannot be discounted that -- as a result of an accident, an arrest, or for other unforeseen reasons -- Subject could come to the attention of the U.S. press and his previous affiliation with CIA would thus be revealed. In such an event our contact with him through continued financial subsidies, linked with some of his irrational acts, could be employed as the basis for criticism of the Agency and be the cause of renewed attacks upon us from various quarters. There is, furthermore, no guarantee that continued Agency contact with or assistance to Subject will prevent exposure of his CIA history to the public media nor lessen the severity of any resultant denigration campaign.

8. If the decision were to be made in SB Division, we would recommend that there should be no further contact with, or financial support for, Subject. Termination would not work a hardship upon Subject, who has proved in the past that he is capable of supporting himself through short-term jobs as an unskilled laborer.

SECRET

SECRET

-4-

9. Inasmuch as the implications of this case could have an adverse effect upon the entire Agency, the decision concerning continuance or termination of subsidy and contact is being referred to your Office.

David E. Murphy
Chief, SB Division

cc: Deputy Director for Plans
Chief, CI Staff (Attention:

Distribution:

O&I-Addressee
1-DDP
1-CI/TRCO-
1-CSB
1-ADC/SB/AO
1-CSB/O/AC
ADC/SB/AO:

xR1901.

SECRET